

The NCHR Celebrates Human Rights Day - 2017

69 Years of Human Rights - 1948 - 2017.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights commemorates its **69th Anniversary** on Human Rights Day, 10 December 2017.

On December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UDHR, which has become the universal standard for defending and promoting Human Rights.



"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home -- so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. [...] Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world." -- Eleanor Roosevelt

[UN Secretary General message - Human Rights Day 2017](#)

All over the world, every year, December 10 is celebrated as Human Rights Day, in commemoration of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. On Human Rights Day we celebrate that "All human beings are born with equal and inalienable rights and fundamental freedoms".

The Right to family life is a basic Human Right. Article 16, section 3 of the UDHR reads:

"The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State."

Everyone is guaranteed protection by the law for the right not to be subjected to arbitrary interference with one's privacy, family, home or correspondence, or to attacks upon one's honour and reputation, Article 12 UDHR. These rights are confirmed in the European Convention on Human Rights and fundamental freedoms, ECHR, (Article 8) and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNCROC, (Article 16).

"Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

"Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty,"
Article 2 UDHR.

In Sweden, December 10 is celebrated as the Nobel Prize Day, but not as **Human Rights Day**. In Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway, we observe constant and recurring violations of Human Rights through laws and practices that break up and undermine the family - the natural family - which in every normal setting is the corner stone of society, no matter how poor or primitive the country may be.

All the Nordic countries have signed and ratified the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which guarantees protection for everyone's basic Human Rights. In addition, the European Convention is embedded in the Nordic Constitutions. However, children who are forcibly removed from the care of their parents and placed in foster homes, and their parents and relatives of these children, suffer gross violations of their Human Rights at the hands of the social councils and the administrative courts. In cases of transfer of the guardianship of foster children, the civil courts contribute to the gross violations of the children's and their parents' and relatives' basic Human Rights to private and family life - and to a fair trial. The result has been that several tens of thousands of children have been taken into care and placed in foster homes among total strangers, resulting in the total severing of their family bonds, which is tantamount to torture (Article 3, ECHR) and constitutes one of the features of genocide.

The governments of Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway are always quick to condemn Human Rights violations in other countries. While the NCHR deem it important and necessary to criticise others, we are appalled that our governments ignore the serious Human Rights violations that are taking place, on a daily basis, in our own countries. Our parliaments and governments have passed laws that undermine **The Family**, the cornerstone of society, in favour of the institutions put in place by the welfare states - "in the best interest of the child", they claim. By using the term "the best interest of the child" they seem to comply with the pre-requisites of Article 3 of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, the history of our Nordic welfare states shows that several tens of thousands of children have been taken removed from their families and placed in foster homes and institutions - on arbitrary grounds.

Christmas is fast approaching and Christmas time is Family time. Families, whose children have been taken into compulsory care and placed in foster homes, are very often subjected to rigid restrictions on their visiting rights. Often the parents and relatives of the children in "care" are not allowed to see the children at Christmas or to even deliver their presents in person on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The social services' staff require the parents and relatives of the children in compulsory care to deliver the Christmas presents to them, for them to be handed over to the children - when it suits the foster homes. Such practices are not necessary in a democratic society, and must be condemned.

In previous years, the NCHR/NKMR sent Christmas Appeals to the rulers of our respective Nordic countries, requesting them to release the children from the foster homes, so that they could spend Christmas with their loved ones.

So far, our appeals to the authorities have fallen on deaf ears, but once again we encourage parents and grandparents and other relatives to demand visiting rights with their children in compulsory care at Christmas.

Human Rights Day, 2017

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